

red 7/23
with 1/20

Threat -- Gravel

Suggest one possible reason for sending the message to Sen. Gravel's administrative assistant is that the sender might have had knowledge, even as far back as April 8, that Gravel had or was going to get some of the Pentagon Papers or something like them. This is certainly within the time frame suggested by the New York Times statement that Neil Sheehan had been working on them for more than three months.

To what extent the message might have been directed specifically at Gravel himself is impossible to say without knowing a great deal about him, when he changed his mind, who knew about it, etc.

If, for instance, the sender chose between Gravel and Sen. Fulbright, one is tempted to think that if the necrophiliac element is operative he found Dead Run Drive irresistible. On the other hand, Fulbright is well known as a dove, an unreconstructible one, whereas Gravel is just getting his pin feathers, so to speak.

No telling how many other people, in addition to McCloskey, may have received leaked material. If there were such, it is interesting that even now they do not choose to reveal that they have been leaked to.

In this connection, this is as good a time as any to mention a thought that has been with us since the beginning of this puzzle: that the writer may have been trying to convey a warning about something he had reason to believe was in the works -- in other words, that his intent was not altogether hostile to any of the possible targets.

Practically all of the suggested authors, or those who have occurred to us as possibilities, appear to have one thing in common -- to a man they are exceptional, odd, even misfits, people who are on the fringes, candidates to be used at times if they come in handy.